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Spy Agency's Former Chief Tells How CIA Gets Its Data

A former boss of the Central Intelligence Agency, now a professor of political science at Brown University, spoke last night to the Newport Discussion Club in the Newport YMCA.

Prof. Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, the author of "The Real CIA," came up through the Office of Strategic Service (OSS) during World War II, and got in on the ground floor of the CIA when it was organized in 1946. Before retiring in 1964, Prof. Kirkpatrick served as a division chief, inspector general and executive director of the agency.

After 18 years with the CIA, Kirkpatrick said, he was "astounded and shocked" when he left the agency and found hostile opinion about the agency was commonplace. This, he said, was why he wrote his book.

In the early 1950s, Kirkpatrick was in charge of the CIA's "foreign collection" or gathering of intelligence information from foreign agents.

Kirkpatrick said Russian security was especially tight at a time when much intelligence had to be ferreted out of her. He said Gen. Walter Biddel Smith, a "tough" CIA executive director, invited the Joint Chiefs of Staff to a CIA briefing. The Joint Chiefs asked the CIA how long it would take to get the necessary information, and the CIA's answer was "unsatisfactory."

To put a major dent in Russian security, a windowless cement building was erected by the CIA in West Berlin, near the East Berlin border, with an impressive array of aerials and electronic gadgets on the roof. Communist officials, satisfied that the Americans had simply established another "listening post," relaxed.

A quarter-mile tunnel was dug under the border and the dirt was stored in the building for later removal. The tunnel, Kirkpatrick said, led beneath a major highway in East Berlin. Major telephone cables were located beneath the highway. The CIA tapped and taped everyone of them. Kirkpatrick said an "underground telephone exchange" room was carved out beneath the highway. He said the tapes provided invaluable intelligence for some time before water damage brought East German telephone crews to dig up the section of highway. The last of the tapes were removed and the tunnel was blown up. Kirkpatrick said it took the CIA another year to finish evaluating the remaining tapes.

Kirkpatrick also spoke of U-2 flights over Russia. He said the U-2 was the brainchild of Richard Bissell, now vice president of United Aircraft in Hartford, Conn., who suggested putting a jet engine in a glider. He said the U-2 "long flew with impunity over Russia." He said cameras carried by the U-2s 15 miles high over

Russia were able to photograph aircraft on the ground so clearly that CIA engineers were able to reproduce the planes to their exact specifications.

Kirkpatrick said the U-2 made a "come back" during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1961-62. By Sept., 1962, daily flights were made over Cuba, whenever the cloud cover was less than 50 per cent. On Oct. 14, 1962, the U-2 got positive proof the Russians were installing offensive missiles at San Cristobal.

The CIA was created along with several other departments by the 1947 National Security Act and the agency acts on the authority of the National Security Council, Kirkpatrick said. The "father" of the CIA, he said, was William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan of New York, director of the OSS in World War II.

The CIA, Kirkpatrick said, comprises four "directorates": 1. Intelligence, in which a vast army of Ph. D.'s — experts in every field — work 24-hours a day to assess intelligence information. They handle up to 100,000 items each day. 2. Science and Technology, in which scientists and engineers develop equipment such as the U-2 plane and observation satellites. 3. Overseas Directorate, which directs the gathering of data from agents. 4. Administration, which handles the security, logistics and personnel.

Kirkpatrick said the CIA, when recruiting spies, looks for a person who lives in the country they want him to work in, has access to top secret information (not just wastebaskets), and has high linguistic skills.

He said the CIA has 500 Russian language experts and 100 experts in Chinese. He said the agents, usually males, are completely checked out and must submit to a "voluntary" polygraph test.

Kirkpatrick said the CIA's "subsidiary" of the National Student Association, "exposed by Ramparts magazine," was useful in that it "balanced" world youth conferences in Helsinki and other cities, rendering the conferences "less than a total success for the Communist youth groups, which generally try to dominate the meetings."

The "Bay of Pigs Disaster," Kirkpatrick said, was caused by an intelligence malassess-ment of the number of people needed and of the loyalty of the Castroites. He said "the President should not have taken the blame, nor should have (John) Foster Dulles." Kirkpatrick said if the CIA made no more mistakes, it would worry him. It would mean the agency wasn't being aggressive enough, he said.

Kirkpatrick said the recent Tet offensive in Vietnam was another intelligence failure, but "it was not exclusively a U.S. failure." Kirkpatrick hung much

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